

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action, made final, dated October 4, 2005.

Regarding the specification, the Examiner is advised that the cross references to related applications have been corrected and updated.

Regarding the double patenting rejection, a terminal disclaimer in respect of each of the prior patents is filed herewith.

Regarding the 35 USC 112 rejection, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is in error. Claim 1, lines 12-15 define :

“ etching both layers of thermally expandable material to define a roof structure at each region such that each roof structure includes at least one actuator at each region and defines an ink ejection port, and such that each heating circuit is embedded in each respective actuator in a position such that heating of the expandable material by the heating circuit results in differential thermal expansion of the actuator and resultant displacement of each actuator”

With respect, the claim defines only that both layers of the thermally expandable material must be etched to define the roof structure. One component of the roof structure is the at least one actuator, and, as is apparent from the specification, the actuator is formed from both layers of the thermally expandable material by etching both of the layers. A second component of the roof structure is the ink ejection port which can be formed by etching only one of the layers of thermally expandable material. However, the mere fact that the ink ejection port is formed by etching only one layer does not, with respect, render the claim unclear because the claim only requires that the roof structure as a whole is formed by etching both layers. This requirement is fulfilled by the formation of the actuator.

Accordingly, the Applicant contends that the person skilled in the art would readily understand the scope and meaning of the claim, and thus the claim is clear.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of the issues raised in the Office Action has been addressed and overcome and that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance.

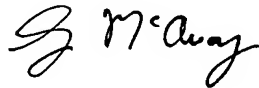
Very respectfully,

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